REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1 and 7 are amended.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over ***Saito et al*** (U.S. Patent 6,417,935) in view of ***Nishikawa et al*** (U.S. Patent 5,532,811). Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 1 and 7 overcome this rejection. It is believed that the list of claims on page 2 distinguishes over the cited art for at least the following reasons.

An objective of the above-identified application is to provide a printer apparatus and a printer control method that prevents logical-page data from being printed on separate physical pages even when a "Paper Out" error occurs [page 5]. To accomplish this objective, the present invention claims a printer controller that controls detection operation of whether or not there is printing medium with one physical page unit of the printing medium [claim 1]. Amended claim 1 sets forth, among other things, that a printer controller calculates the total physical length of the logical-pages after creating the printing data, according to the calculated physical length of said logical-pages and physical length of one page of said printing medium, sends the printing command and the printing data to the mechanical controller, and controls the detection operation of the mechanical controller for detecting when there is no printing medium.

The combination of *Saito* and *Nishikawa* does not result in the claimed invention. Specifically, the sheet detectors 38 and 40 [sensors P and F respectively] disclosed in *Nishikawa* do not prevent logical-page data from being printed on separate pages when a "Paper Out" error

occurs. Also, the printer disclosed in *Nishikawa* prints in physical-page units, and the printer disclosed in *Saito* is started for logical-page units and performs printing in logical-page lengths. Thus, "Paper Out" errors will be detected in logical-page units, which does not prevent logical data from being printed on separate physical pages when paper is added to the printer. Therefore, the combination of references cited by the Examiner would suffer the same problems discussed in the Description of the Related Art, at pages 1-4 of the Specification and illustrated in Fig. 11A and Fig. 11B.

As claims 2 – 6 depend from claim 1, they should likewise be allowable in light of the above comments in regard to the §103(a) rejection by nature of their dependency.

Claim 7 is amended to set forth a printer control method for printing in logical-page units according to a command of a host, the method comprising, among other steps, sending a printing command and printing data to a mechanical controller for controlling a print engine and controlling a detection operation of the mechanical controller for detecting when there is no printing medium <u>according to the calculated physical length of said logical-pages and physical length of one page of said printing medium</u>. Method claim 7 distinguishes from the cited art for the reasons explained above with respect to apparatus claim 1.

As claims 8-12 depend from claim 7, they should be allowable by nature of their dependency.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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